WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. ~~A method for pre-storing a portion of a program distributed on a~~ plurality of distribution conduits and in a linear schedule with staggered start times, the method comprising:

    determining a first start time of the program on a first distribution conduit;

    determining a second start time of the program on a second distribution conduit;

    determining a stagger time between the first start time and the second start time; and

    storing a segment of the program about equal in length to the stagger time.

2. The method for pre-storing the portion of the program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule with staggered start times as recited in claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second distribution conduits comprises at least one of a digital channel and an analog channel.

3. The method for pre-storing the portion of the program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule with staggered start times as recited in claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the first and second distribution conduits share a same channel.

4. The method for pre-storing the portion of the program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule with staggered start times as recited in claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second distribution conduits comprises a broadband network connection.

5. The method for pre-storing the portion of the program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule with staggered start times as recited in claim 1, wherein the determining the stagger time comprises subtracting the first start time from the second start time.

6. The method for pre-storing the portion of the program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule with staggered start times as recited in claim 1, wherein the storing the segment comprises storing the segment at a user location.

1   7.   The method for pre-storing the portion of the program distributed

2 on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule with staggered start

3 times as recited in claim 1, wherein the storing the segment comprises storing the

4 segment in a non-volatile manner.

1   8.   The method for pre-storing the portion of the program distributed

2 on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule with staggered start

3 times as recited in claim 1, wherein the storing the segment comprises storing the

4 segment on a rotating disk.

1   9.   The method for pre-storing the portion of the program distributed

2 on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule with staggered start

3 times as recited in claim 1, further comprising recording the segment from the first

4 distribution conduit.

1   10.   A distribution program product for pre-storing a portion of a

2 program distributed on a plurality of distribution conduits and in a linear schedule with

3 staggered start times, the distribution program product comprising:

4   code for determining a first start time of the program on a first distribution

5 conduit;

6   code for determining a second start time of the program on a second

7 distribution conduit;

8   code for determining a stagger time between the first start time and the

9 second start time;

10   code for storing a segment of the program about equal in length to the

11 stagger time; and

12   a computer-readable medium for storing the codes.

1   11.   The distribution program product for pre-storing the portion of the

2 program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule

3 with staggered start times as recited in claim 10, wherein at least one of the first and

4 second distribution conduits comprises at least one of a digital channel and an analog

5 channel.

1   12.   The distribution program product for pre-storing the portion of the
2   program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule
3   with staggered start times as recited in claim 10, wherein at least a portion of the first and
4   second distribution conduits share a same channel.

1   13.   The distribution program product for pre-storing the portion of the
2   program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule
3   with staggered start times as recited in claim 10, wherein at least a portion of the first and
4   second distribution conduits share a same transponder.

1   14.   The distribution program product for pre-storing the portion of the
2   program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule
3   with staggered start times as recited in claim 10, wherein at least one of the first and
4   second distribution conduits comprises a broadband network connection.

1   15.   The distribution program product for pre-storing the portion of the
2   program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule
3   with staggered start times as recited in claim 10, wherein the code for determining the
4   stagger time comprises code for subtracting the first start time from the second start time.

1   16.   The distribution program product for pre-storing the portion of the
2   program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule
3   with staggered start times as recited in claim 10, wherein the code for storing the segment
4   comprises code for storing the segment at a user location.

1   17.   The distribution program product for pre-storing the portion of the
2   program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule
3   with staggered start times as recited in claim 10, wherein the code for storing the segment
4   comprises code for storing the segment on a rotating disk.

1   18.   The distribution program product for pre-storing the portion of the
2   program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule
3   with staggered start times as recited in claim 10, further comprising code for recording
4   the segment from the first distribution conduit.

1   19.   The distribution program product for pre-storing the portion of the

2   program distributed on the plurality of distribution conduits and in the linear schedule

3   with staggered start times as recited in claim 10, wherein the code for storing the segment

4   comprises code for storing the segment in a non-volatile manner.

1   20.   A method for pre-storing a portion of a program distributed on a

2   plurality of distribution conduits and in a linear schedule with staggered start times, the

3   method comprising:

4   determining a first start time of the program on a first distribution conduit;

5   determining a second start time of the program on a second distribution

6   conduit, wherein at least one of the first and second distribution conduits comprises at

7   least one of a digital channel, an analog channel, a broadband network;

8   determining a stagger time between the first start time and the second start

9   time, wherein the determining the stagger time comprises subtracting the first start time

10   from the second start time; and

11   storing a segment of the program about equal in length to the stagger time,

12   wherein the storing the segment comprises storing the segment proximate to a user

13   location.